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EPA to limit toxic 'forever chemicals' in drinking water



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Eric Kleiner, center, sorts samples for experimentation as part of drinking water and PFAS research at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Center For Environmental Solutions and Emergency Response, Thursday, Feb. 16, 2023, in Cincinnati.

Associated Press

National Anthem
and Flag day
festivities on
March 18 at the
Aruba National
Archives



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In connection to the project at Baby
Beach, the DOW will be closing
roadway temporarily



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EPA to limit toxic 'forever chemicals' in drinking water

From Front

By **MICHAEL PHILLIS** and **MATTHEW DALY**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday proposed the first federal limits on harmful "forever chemicals" in drinking water, a long-awaited protection the agency said will save thousands of lives and prevent serious illnesses, including cancer.

The plan would limit toxic PFAS chemicals to the lowest level that tests can detect. PFAS, or per- and polyfluorinated substances, are a group of compounds that are widespread, dangerous and expensive to remove from water. They don't degrade in the environment and are linked to a broad range of health issues, including low birth-weight and kidney cancer. "The science is clear that long-term exposure to PFAS is linked to significant health risks," Radhika Fox, assistant EPA administrator for water, said in an interview.

Fox called the federal proposal a "transformational change" for improving the safety of drinking water in the United States. The agency estimates the rule could reduce PFAS exposure for nearly 100 million Americans, decreasing rates of cancer, heart attacks and birth complications. The chemicals had been used since the 1940s in consumer products and industry, including in nonstick pans, food packaging and firefighting foam. Their use is now mostly phased out in the U.S., but some still remain.

The proposal would set strict limits of 4 parts per trillion, the lowest level that can be reliably measured, for two common types of PFAS compounds called PFOA and PFOS. In addition, the EPA wants to regulate the combined amount of four other types of PFAS. Water providers will have to monitor for PFAS.

The public will have a chance to comment, and the agency can make



Michael Regan, the head of the Environmental Protection Agency, announces the Biden administration is launching a broad strategy to regulate toxic industrial compounds associated with serious health conditions that are used in products ranging from cookware to carpets and firefighting foams during an event at N.C. State University, Oct. 18, 2021, in Raleigh, N.C.

Associated Press

changes before issuing a final rule, expected by the end of the year.

The Association of State Drinking Water Administrators called the proposal "a step in the right direction" but said compliance will be challenging. Despite available federal money, "significant rate increases will be required for most of the systems" that must remove PFAS, the group said Tuesday. Environmental and public health advocates have called for federal regulation of PFAS chemicals for years. Over the last decade, the EPA has repeatedly strengthened its protective, voluntary health thresholds for the chemicals but has not imposed mandatory limits on water providers.

Public concern has increased in recent years as testing reveals PFAS chemicals in a growing list of communities that are often near manufacturing plants or Air Force bases.

Until now, only a handful of states have issued PFAS regulations, and none has set limits as strict as what the EPA is proposing. By regulating PFOA and PFOS at the minimum amounts that tests can detect, the

EPA is proposing the tightest possible standards that are technically feasible, experts said.

"This is a really historic moment," said Melanie Benesh, vice president of government affairs at the Environmental Working Group. "There are many communities that have had PFAS in their water for decades who have been waiting for a long time for this announcement to come out." The agency said its proposal will protect everyone, including vulnerable communities, and reduce illness on a massive scale. The EPA wants water providers to do testing, notify the public when PFAS are found and remove the compounds when levels are too high. Utilities that have high levels of a contaminant are typically given time to fix problems, but they could face fines or loss of federal grants if problems persist. The American Chemistry Council, which represents large chemical companies, slammed EPA's "misguided approach" and said, "these low limits will likely result in billions of dollars in compliance costs."

In a statement Tuesday, the group said it has "serious

concerns with the underlying science used to develop" the proposed rule, adding: "It's critical that EPA gets the science right." The proposal would also regulate other types of PFAS like GenX Chemicals, which manufacturers used as a substitute when PFOA and PFOS were phased out of consumer products. The proposal would regulate the cumulative health threat of those compounds and mandate treatment if that threat is too high.

"Communities across this country have suffered far too long from the ever-present threat of PFAS pollution," EPA Administrator Michael Regan said. The EPA's proposal could prevent tens of thousands of PFAS-related illnesses, he said, and stands as a "major step toward safeguarding all our communities from these dangerous contaminants."

Emily Donovan, co-founder of Clean Cape Fear, which advocates for cleaning up a PFAS-contaminated stretch of North Carolina, said it was important to make those who released the compounds into the environment pay cleanup costs. The EPA recently

made \$2 billion available to states to get rid of contaminants such as PFAS and will release billions more in coming years. The agency also is providing technical support to smaller communities that will soon be forced to install treatments systems, and there's funding in the 2021 infrastructure law for water system upgrades.

Still, it will be expensive for utilities to install new equipment, and the burden will be especially tough for small towns with fewer resources.

"This is a problem that has been handed over to utilities through no fault of their own," said Sri Vedachalam, director of water equity and climate resilience at Environmental Consulting & Technology Inc.

Many communities will need to balance the new PFAS requirements with removing poisonous lead pipes and replacing aged water mains prone to rupturing, Vedachalam said. Fox said there "isn't a one-size answer" to how communities will prioritize their needs but said billions of dollars in federal resources are available for water improvements.

With federal help, water providers that serve metropolitan areas should be able to spread out costs in a way "no one will notice," said Scott Faber, senior vice president of government affairs at the Environmental Working Group, an advocacy organization that works to get toxic chemicals out of food, water, clothing and other items.

Several states have already imposed PFAS drinking water limits. Officials in Michigan, which has the tightest standards of any state, said costs to remove PFAS in communities where it was found were reasonable.

Erik Olson of the Natural Resources Defense Council called the EPA proposal crucial to protect public health. "Setting strong standards will help ensure the fundamental right of every family to have safe water flowing from their kitchen tap," he said. □

Biden issues order to strengthen gun background checks

By ZEKE MILLER and COLLEEN LONG

Associated Press

MONTEREY PARK, Calif.

(AP) — President Joe Biden

signed an executive order

on Tuesday aiming at

increasing background

checks to buy guns, pro-

moting more secure fire-

arms storage and ensur-

ing U.S. law enforcement

agencies get more out of

a bipartisan gun control

law enacted last summer.

The Democratic president

was to address his latest ef-

forts to curb gun violence

in a speech in this sub-

urban Los Angeles com-

munity, where a gunman

stormed a dance hall and

shot 20 people, killing 11,

following a Lunar New Year

celebration in January. He

was also meeting with fam-

ilies of victims and with first

responders from that day.

Biden's rhetoric has grown

ever stronger about guns

he routinely calls for ban-

ning assault weapons in

pushing a vocal gun-con-

trol platform even tougher

than during the Obama

administration when he

was vice president. He has

been emboldened by the

midterm elections when

his regular talk of gun con-

trol didn't result in massive

losses, and he's expected

to continue to argue for

strong changes as he in-

ches toward a 2024 ree-

lection run, his aides say.

Biden was greeted at the

Los Angeles airport Tues-

day by Brandon Tsay, the

26-year-old who wrestled

the semiautomatic pistol

away from the gunman

in Monterey Park. The two

shook hands; Biden had

invited Tsay to his State of

the Union address in Janu-

ary where he praised the

young man's heroism.

But the president has only

limited power on guns to

go beyond bipartisan leg-

islation passed by Con-

gress last summer after

the killings last year of 10

shoppers at a Buffalo, New

York, grocery store and 19

students and two teach-

ers at a Uvalde, Texas, el-

ementary school.

Tuesday's action does not

change U.S. government



President Joe Biden shakes hands with Brandon Tsay as he arrives at Los Angeles International Airport, Tuesday, March 14, 2023, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

the president is asking the Federal Trade Commission to issue a public report analyzing how gun manufacturers market to minors and use military images to market to the general public. "President Biden's executive order today is a home run for public safety," said John Feinblatt, president of Everytown for Gun Safety. "This is the latest example of President Biden's leadership on gun safety, and we're proud to stand with him as he takes robust action to help close the gun-seller loophole which will significantly expand background checks on gun sales, keep weapons out of the hands of dangerous people and save lives." □

policy. Rather, it directs federal agencies to ensure compliance with existing laws and procedures a typical feature of executive orders issued by presidents when they confront the limits of their own power to act without cooperation from Congress.

Biden, in the order, acknowledged Congress' opposition, but said, "In the meantime, my administration will continue to do all that we can, within existing authority, to make our communities safer."

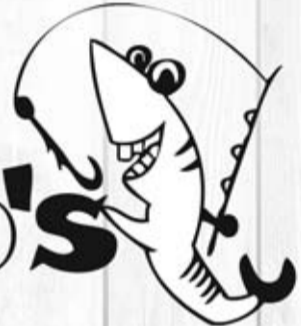
The order directs the Cabinet to work on a plan to better structure the government to support communities suffering from gun violence.

The plan calls on Attorney General Merrick Garland to shore up the rules for federally licensed gun dealers so they know they are required to do background checks as part of the license.


Biden is also mandating better reporting of ballistics data from federal law enforcement for a clearinghouse that allows federal, state and local law enforcement to match shell casings to guns. But local and state law enforcement agencies are not required to report ballistics data, and many do not, making the clearinghouse less effective. And

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San Francisco reparations idea: \$5 million per Black person

By JANIE HAR
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Payments of \$5 million to every eligible Black adult, the elimination of personal debt and tax burdens, guaranteed annual incomes of at least \$97,000 for 250 years and homes in San Francisco for just \$1 a family.

These are just some of the recommendations made by a city-appointed reparations committee tasked with a thorny question: What would it take to atone for the centuries of U.S. slavery and generations of systemic racism that continue to keep Black Americans on the bottom rungs of health, education and economic prosperity, and overrepresented in prisons and homeless populations? A first hearing before the city's Board of Supervisors on Tuesday could offer a glimpse of the board's appetite for advancing a reparations plan that would be unmatched nationwide in specificity and breadth. Critics have slammed it as financially and politically impossible. One conservative analyst estimated that each non-Black family in the city would have to pay at least \$600,000.

Some supervisors have said San Francisco can't afford any major reparations payments right now, given the city's deep deficit amid a tech industry downturn, but they still want to discuss the proposals and consider future solutions. The board can vote to change, adopt or reject any or all the recommendations. But reparations committee members consider their results to be an accurate estimate of what it would take to begin to repair the enduring damage of slavery and discrimination, and they bristle at the idea that they should figure out how to pay for it.

"We are the harmed," said Eric McDonnell, chair of San Francisco's African American Reparations Advisory Committee. "If the judge ruled in our favor, the judge



San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Shamann Walton delivers remarks during a press conference at Civic Center Plaza in San Francisco on March 22, 2022.

Associated Press

would not turn to us and say, 'Help them figure out how to make this work.'"

The idea of paying compensation for slavery has gained traction across cities and universities. In 2020, California became the first state to form a reparations task force and is still struggling to put a price tag on what is owed.

The idea has not been taken up at the federal level. Fewer than 50,000 Black people still live in San Francisco, and it's not clear how many would be eligible. Possible criteria include having lived in the city during certain time periods and descending from someone "incarcerated for the failed War on Drugs." Critics say the payouts make no sense in a state and city that never enslaved Black people. Opponents generally say taxpayers who were never slave owners should not have to pay money to people who were not enslaved.

Advocates say that view ignores a wealth of data and historical evidence showing how long after U.S. slavery officially ended in 1865, government policies and practices worked to imprison Black people at

higher rates, deny access to home and business loans and restrict where they could work and live.

"There's still a veiled perspective that, candidly, Black folks don't deserve this," said McDonnell. "The number itself, \$5 million, is actually low when you consider the harm."

Justin Hansford, professor at Howard University School of Law, says no municipal reparations plan will have enough money to right the wrongs of slavery, but he appreciates any attempts to "genuinely, legitimately, authentically" make things right. And that includes cash, he said.

"If you're going to try to say you're sorry, you have to speak in the language that people understand, and money is that language," he said.

Black residents once made up more than 13% of San Francisco's population, but more than 50 years later, they account for less than 6% of the city's residents and 38% of its homeless population. The Fillmore District once thrived with Black-owned night clubs and shops until government redevelopment in the 1960s forced out residents. John Dennis, chair of the

San Francisco Republican Party, does not support reparations although he says he'd support a serious conversation on the topic. He doesn't consider the board's discussion of \$5 million payments to be one.

"This conversation we're having in San Francisco is completely unserious. They just threw a number up, there's no analysis," Dennis said. "It seems ridiculous, and it also seems that this is the one city where it could possibly pass."

Led by Supervisor Shamann Walton, the board created the 15-member reparations committee in late 2020, months after California Gov. Gavin Newsom approved a statewide task force amid national turmoil after a white Minneapolis police officer killed George Floyd, a Black man. At Tuesday's hearing, the board could direct staff to conduct further research, write legislation or schedule more meetings. The committee's final report is due in June.

California's task force continues to deliberate recommendations, including monetary compensation. Its report is due to the Legislature on July 1. At that point, it will be up to law-

makers to draft and pass legislation, often a time-consuming process.

The state panel made the controversial decision in March to limit reparations to descendants of Black people who were in the country in the 19th century. Some reparations advocates said that approach misses the ongoing harms that Black immigrants suffer.

Under San Francisco's draft recommendation, a person must be at least 18 years old and have identified as "Black/African American" in public documents for at least 10 years. Eligible people must also meet two of eight other criteria, though the list may change.

Those criteria include being born in or migrating to San Francisco between 1940 and 1996 and living in the city for at least 13 years; being displaced from San Francisco by urban renewal between 1954 and 1973, or the descendant of someone who was; attending the city's public schools before they were fully desegregated; or being a descendant of an enslaved U.S. person before 1865.

The Chicago suburb of Evanston became the first U.S. city to fund reparations. The city gave money to qualifying people for home repairs, downpayments and interest or late penalties due on property in the city. In December, the Boston City Council approved of a reparations study task force. □

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U.S. says Russian warplane hits American drone over Black Sea

By KARL RITTER

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — A Russian fighter jet struck the propeller of a U.S. surveillance drone over the Black Sea on Tuesday in a “brazen violation of international law,” causing American forces to bring down the unmanned aerial vehicle, the U.S. said.

The incident, which raised tensions over Moscow’s war in Ukraine, appeared to mark the first time since the height of the Cold War that a U.S. aircraft was brought down after being hit by a Russian warplane.

U.S. President Joe Biden was briefed on the incident by national security adviser Jake Sullivan, according to White House National Security spokesman John Kirby. He added that U.S. State Department officials would be speaking directly with their Russian counterparts and “expressing our concerns over this unsafe and unprofessional intercept.”

State Department spokesman Ned Price called it a “brazen violation of international law.” He said the U.S. summoned the Russian ambassador to lodge a protest and the U.S. ambassador to Russia, Lynne Tracy, has made similar representations in Moscow.



A U.S. MQ-9 drone is on display during an air show at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2018.

The U.S. European Command said in a statement that two Russian Su-27 fighter jets “conducted an unsafe and unprofessional intercept” of a U.S. MQ-9 drone that was operating within international airspace over the Black Sea. It said one of the Russian fighters “struck the propeller of the MQ-9, causing U.S. forces to have to bring the MQ-9 down in international waters.” Prior to that, the Su-27s dumped fuel on and flew in front of the MQ-9 several times before the collision in “a reckless, environmentally unsound and unprofessional manner,” the U.S.

European Command said in a statement from Stuttgart, Germany. “This incident demonstrates a lack of competence in addition to being unsafe and unprofessional,” it added.

U.S. Air Force Gen. James B. Hecker, commander of U.S. Air Forces Europe and Air Forces Africa, said the MQ-9 aircraft was “conducting routine operations in international airspace when it was intercepted and hit by a Russian aircraft, resulting in a crash and complete loss of the MQ-9.”

He added that “in fact, this unsafe and unprofessional act by the Russians nearly

caused both aircraft to crash.”

There was no immediate reaction from Moscow, which has repeatedly voiced concern about U.S. intelligence flights close to the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia illegally annexed from Ukraine in 2014. The Kremlin has charged that by providing weapons to Ukraine and sharing intelligence information with Kyiv, the U.S. and its allies have effectively become engaged in the conflict. Kirby emphasized that the incident wouldn’t deter the U.S. from continuing their missions in the area.

“if the message is that they

want to deter or dissuade us from flying, and operating in international airspace, over the Black Sea, then that message will fail,” Kirby said, adding “that is not going to happen.”

“We’re going to continue to fly and operate in international airspace over international waters,” he said. “The Black Sea belongs to no one nation.”

The U.S. European Command said the incident followed a pattern of dangerous actions by Russian pilots while interacting with U.S. and Allied aircraft over international airspace, including over the Black Sea.

“These aggressive actions by Russian aircrew are dangerous and could lead to miscalculation and unintended escalation,” it warned. Gen. David Berger, commandant of the Marine Corps, said that this type of collision is his greatest concern, both in that area of Europe as well as in the Pacific.

“Probably my biggest worry both there and in the Pacific is an aggressive Russia or China pilot or vessel captain, or something gets too close, doesn’t realize where they are, and causes a collision,” Berger said, in response to a question at a National Press Club event on Tuesday. □

Mexico to use traditional medicine, more Cuban doctors



Hilaria Rodriguez, reviews her plants in a traditional Mayan medicine center, in the community of Na balam, in the Mexican state of Chiapas, Oct. 19, 2000.

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Health authorities in Mexico said Tuesday they will use more traditional medicine and more Cuban doctors in the country’s woefully under-equipped public hospital system. Zoe Robledo, the head of Mexico’s largest public hospital network, said at a news conference that the system will hire 753 practitioners of traditional massage and herbal treatments.

The Social Security Institute will also employ “curanderos,” who are non-licensed healers who use bundles of herbs, smoke, alcohol and eggs to “draw” sickness out of the bodies of their

patients. “Thanks to traditional medicine, humans have managed to overcome threats to their physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing,” Health Secretary Jorge Alcocer said at the news conference.

The hospitals and clinics will also employ midwives and people who practice a traditional form of chiropractic medicine.

Apparently, they won’t necessarily be licensed professionals.

Instead, they will “base their treatment on ancestral knowledge,” according to a statement by the office of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador.

The system also will seek to double the approximately 600 Cuban doctors who have been offered jobs in Mexico. While many Mexican hospitals lack specialized doctors especially in rural or violence-plagued areas the country’s health care system has even starker deficits of medicines, hospitals and equipment. Patients’ relatives often have to go and search for medications, surgical supplies and donated blood in order to get the care their loved ones need.

That is largely the result of decades of under-investment in the health care system. □

Activists urge UN Security Council to refer Myanmar to court

By **EDITH M. LEDERER**

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Human rights activists urged the U.N. Security Council on Monday to refer Myanmar's military rulers to the International Criminal Court and urged neighboring Southeast Asian countries to support the opposition pro-democracy movement.

The leaders of two women's rights organizations spoke to reporters ahead of a closed council meeting on Myanmar. Members heard briefings by U.N. special envoy for Myanmar Noeleen Heyzer and Indonesia's Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi, whose country chairs the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations. May Sabe Phyu, director of the Gender Equality Network, a coalition of organizations promoting women's rights in Myanmar, accused Myanmar's military of conducting "a terror campaign" and committing "heinous acts" that constituted crimes against humanity. She said the Security Council should refer the junta's actions to the



May Sabe Phyu, prominent human rights activist and wife of Patrick Kum Ja Lee, speaks to journalists after Patrick was convicted in Yangon, Myanmar, Jan. 22, 2016.

Associated Press

International Criminal Court for prosecution. Myanmar's military has long been accused of human rights violations, most notably during a brutal 2017 counterinsurgency campaign against Rohingya Muslims in the western state of Rakhine. International courts are considering whether that crackdown was genocide.

In 2021, the military ousted Myanmar's elected civilian government, then moved to violently suppress public opposition to the takeover. Some experts now consider the situation in Myanmar to be a civil war in which the army has conducting major offensives against widespread armed resistance. The Security Council approved its first-ever reso-

lution on Myanmar in December, demanding an immediate end to violence, urging its military rulers to release all "arbitrarily detained" prisoners including ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi and to restore democratic institutions. It also reiterated a call for dialogue and reconciliation and urged all sides "to respect human rights, fun-

damental freedoms and the rule of law."

The activists called for an arms embargo, for the U.N. special envoy to have public engagements with pro-democracy actors, and for accountability for crimes perpetrated by the military. Phyu, who left Myanmar after the takeover and is now based in the United States, asked the Security Council to pressure Myanmar's neighbors not to support the government but to publicly support democratic forces, including the National Unity Government, which she said has the support of the people of Myanmar.

And she criticized U.N. envoy Heyzer for meeting Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing but not meeting publicly with pro-democracy groups including the National Unity Government, which operates underground and calls itself the country's legitimate government.

Naw Hser Hser, head of the Women's League of Burma, said supporters of democracy feel forgotten by the international community. □

Hundreds dead as Cyclone Freddy wrecks Malawi, Mozambique

By **VITUS-GREGORY GONDWE and WANJOHI KABUKURU**

Associated Press

BLANTYRE, Malawi (AP) — The devastating Tropical Cyclone Freddy which has ripped through southern Africa in a rare second land-

fall has killed at least 219 people in Malawi and Mozambique since Saturday night, with the death toll expected to rise. Heavy rains that triggered floods and mudslides have killed 199 people in Malawi, authorities said Tuesday.

President Lazarus Chakwera declared a "state of disaster" in the country's southern region and the now-ravaged commercial capital, Blantyre. Some 19,000 people in the south of the nation have been displaced, according to Malawi's disaster management directorate.

"Power and communications are down in many affected areas, hindering aid operations," said Stephane Dujarric, the U.N. Secretary General's spokesperson at a press briefing Tuesday afternoon. The most affected regions remain inaccessible so the full extent of the damage is so far unknown. Reports from Mozambique's disaster institute on Tuesday confirmed that 20 people have died in the country and 1,900 homes have been destroyed in

the coastal Zambezia province. Tens of thousands of people are still holed up in storm shelters and accommodation centers.

Freddy will continue to thump central Mozambique and southern Malawi with extreme rainfall before it exits back to the sea late Wednesday afternoon, the U.N.'s meteorological center on the island of Réunion projected. Human rights group Amnesty International has called on the international community to mobilize resources and boost aid and rescue efforts in the two countries. Relief efforts in the nations are strained and were already battling a cholera outbreak when Freddy struck.

"It is clear that the official death toll will rise in both Malawi and Mozambique, as will reports of wrecked

infrastructure," said Tigere Chagutah, Amnesty International's east and southern Africa director. "The affected countries must also be compensated for loss and damage caused by the cyclone."

In November last year, nations agreed to compensate countries affected by extreme weather exacerbated by human-caused climate change. Cyclones are wetter, more frequent and more intense as the planet heats up, scientists say. "Mozambique and Malawi are among the countries least responsible for climate change, yet they are facing the full force of storms that are intensifying due to global warming driven mostly by carbon emissions from the world's richest nations," Chagutah added. □



A man passes houses that are submerged in flood waters in Blantyre, Malawi Tuesday, March 14, 2023.

Associated Press

Minister Endy Croes meets with EduCampus

(Oranjestad)—Recently, Minister Endy Croes met with Mr. Edgar Croes and Mrs. Stephanie Croes from EduCampus. EduCampus Aruba is a new style of education on the island that started back in January of 2020. EduCampus provides its students a combined structure of education, where students ages 8 to 18 receive online and in-person classes. During this meeting with the minister, the institution handed in their annual budget costs for 2021.

They have also informed that they are already work-

ing on the annual budget costs for 2022, and they will turn this in in a few weeks. EduCampus focuses as much on the students with talent for academia, as well as those talented in sports. EduCampus offers their students the opportunity to learn on their own terms.

The school has 214 students, 74 of which are athletes. EduCampus provides these athletes the opportunity to practice their sports in combination with their studies, seeing as they are not tied down to a strict schedule. Athletes that attend this school and that

have to train for a tournament are given the opportunity to practice in the morning if necessary. This type of education is accredited by Cognia, so students who finish their studies at EduCampus can continue their studies in the US or The Netherlands.

By the end of April 2023, EduCampus wants to launch another program for elite athletes that have to train harder for their tournaments. The student records are stored in an American database (SAA database), where American schools can keep up with their growth here in or-



der to see if these students are able to obtain scholarships. They have also informed that they work with an immigration lawyer, who advises them on the key points they need to be aware of in terms of immigration law, as to avoid any complications for the

students during the process of obtaining Visas.

EduCampus has strict contact with this lawyer who advises students from the institution. Minister Endy Croes congratulates EduCampus for their good work and he wishes them success! □



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stagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Silvia Sperling Canabarro.

He wrote to us saying; "We can no longer imagine traveling anywhere outside of Brazil other than here."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

In connection to the project at Baby Beach, the DOW will be closing roadway temporarily

(Oranjestad)—The Department of Public Works (DOW) informed through their social media that starting Wednesday, March 15th, they will temporarily be closing down the one-way road that is parallel to the parking lot in construction at Baby Beach.

This roadway to Rum Reef Bar & Grill will temporarily change for traffic from both sides. The reason for this is to remove the sand hills in the area and to remove tube work from underneath the roadway.

The roadway will be closed for all traffic between 7am

and 4pm, and this project will last for 7 work days.

The Baby Beach project is in the second phase of its execution, which is especially dedicated for the new parking lot, as Minister of Tourism, Dangui Oduber, assured last February.

This phase of the project also includes setting up new light poles and a new roundabout. There will be public bathroom for all visitors, as well as two food kiosks that will especially serve traditional Aruban and Caribbean snacks and cuisine.

In the coming months, the Aruban government will begin the execution for phase 3 of the project. In this phase, the 2 tennis courts in the area will be renewed. Additionally,

there will also be a new multifunctional court built where visitors can play a variety of sports, including beach tennis, beach volley and beach soccer. The hut area in between the two tennis courts will be remod-

eled into a restaurant and the stairs will be renewed as well using mosaic art. The turtle wall will be pushed further back and the area will be filled with white sand, thus further expanding the beach. □



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This new and exclusive development with luxurious interior design, offers only 20 Unique townhouses. The townhouses are made with excellent quality in construction as well as finishing touches. Also a beautiful sparkling private pool area between the breathtaking landscape grounds with a sense of peace in our gated community area. Each townhouse is built on property land.

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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at the Caribbean Palm Village



The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure to recognize Goodwill Ambassadors & Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. These Ambassadors were respectively honored with certificates acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love to the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests whom have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:
Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Goodwill Ambassadors

Mr. Wayne & Mrs. Dorothy Titchen from New Hampshire, United States. Mr. & Mrs. Titchen have been coming to the island for 20 years consecutively.

Mr. Frank E. & Mrs. Denise C. DeClements from Massachusetts, United States. Mr. & Mrs. DeClements have been coming to the island for 25 years consecutively.

Emerald Ambassadors

Mr. Anthony & Mrs. Kathleen Liccardo from New Jersey, United States. Mr. & Mrs. Liccardo have been coming to the island

for 36 years consecutively.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and members of the Caribbean Palm Village bestowed the honor certifications to the honorees, presented them with gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by the honorees were:

The Titchen's:

- Aruba's year-round sunny weather
- Aruba's nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets
- Aruba's variety of fun activities around the island
- Aruba's warm & friendly people
- All the nice friends they have met in Aruba throughout the years

The DeClements':

- "Aruba is my happy place"
- Everything about Aruba is very nice
- The Cleanliness of the island
- "We feel as this is our second home"
- "We love it here and always look forward to coming back"

The Liccardo's:

- Aruba's year-round sunny weather
- Aruba's nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets
- Aruba's warm & friendly people
- Aruba's safety
- Aruba's variety of restaurants.☐

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National Anthem and Flag day festivities on March 18 at the Aruba National Archives

ORANJESTAD - The Aruba National Archives and the Friends of Archives Aruba invite the entire community once more to celebrate the Anthem and Flag day on March 18, 2023, at the Aruba National Archives.

The festivities on March 18 will start at 10:00 am and end at 6:00 pm.

It is a tradition for the ANA to organize an exhibition on our national day. This year it is titled Aruban Diaspora: a shared past and future. The exhibition is in connection with the celebrations to commemorate the 160th anniversary of the abolition of slaves, which the entire Kingdom of the Netherlands will organize on July 1, 2023.

The intention is to expand the expo "Aruban Diaspora" in July, with the addition of the Slavery in Aruba section, to have the expo during this commemorative year. In 2024, they will expand the expo focusing on the historical ties of the relations with the Kingdom. The Expo "Aruban Diaspora" will be held in a Caribbean context and the regional and global migration to Aruba over time and the Aruba of today.

They will try to highlight the historical part as much as possible of the most important developments of Aruba.

In addition to the expo held in the main hall, the festivities will also happen in the parking lot where they will have a National Cultural Festivity with entertainment by Robert Maduro and Azucar and special presentations by the dance group Grupo di Baile Santa Cruz.

For those seeking local and typical foods, there will be several tents with sweets, cakes, coconut water, and more. For the children, they will have a kids' corner with a

dino jump and popcorn. It will be a family festivity.

The ADA Foundation is grateful to the Aruba National Archives for their cooperation in organizing the expo and festivity. They also thank CEDE Aruba, UNOCA, Setar, and Banco di Caribe for their support in making this cultural festivity possible for the community. □



Aruba Today is delighted to share to its readers a new segment called "Beauty and the Beach", where we take a minute to honor our guests who have decided to spend their vacation on our beautiful and warm island.

In this edition, we'd like to give a shout out to **Norma and Captain Kurt from Montreal, Canada**, who are frequent visitors of the island and who say they love the people here the most! Aruba is always proud to host all families and guests. We at Aruba Today encourage any visitor of the island to send in their pictures and/or messages; who knows? You might get on the cover!

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Article by Etnia Nativa
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A good luck charm

Episode CXCVII - 197

Destination values, native heritage, and cultural identity are what we advocate for in our own particular way of safeguarding all reasons to love Aruba. Etnia Nativa, through this cultural blog, "Island-Insight," shares native cultural awareness, educates, and safeguards native heritage. It is how we encourage you to experiment with an island-keeper state of mind during your stay.

To fulfill one more of our purposes in this episode, we introduce you to a fetish "seed," locally known as "djucu," and if during your stay you get one, you will be very lucky!

"Djucu," scientific name *Mucuna urens*, is a large vine or liana vine native to tropical Central and South America. Found from Panama to Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Brazil, it grows in forests and at altitudes up to 1,800 m (6,000 ft.).

Common names by which this plant is known include horse eye bean, bull's eye bean, and "djucu" in our native Papiamentu language. It is not a plant that you can find in Aruba, but you can get its beautiful and valuable seeds by searching carefully among the pieces of driftwood or sticks that the ocean currents bring to the north coast of the island. Finding one may be the luckiest day of your life, since for the natives, finding a 'Djucu' means good luck. By the time you get a "djucu," you will have obtained your favorite Aruban



amulet, and you can even always carry it with you on a chain like a necklace. The Djucu seed was widely used by the natives of Central America and the Caribbean and is still used today to make a variety of ornaments or souvenirs.

Mucuna urens, or "djucu", was also widely used in traditional medicine. A tincture made from the powder of its seeds macerated in alcohol is a soothing remedy used against hemorrhoids, especially in those prone to bleeding. There are those who attribute wonderful but superstitious properties to the seeds, claiming that simply carrying them in their pockets or purses will give them spiritual powers and prevent someone from having hemorrhoids.

The truth is that drinking water can be obtained from the fleshy stems of the plant, and the fibers of the stem are also used to make strong and very durable ropes.

In Costa Rica, they use the stems and seeds of the plant, affirming that the resulting liquid is very effective as a diuretic. While in other places they have the custom of grinding the seeds with sugar to make a drink known as "horchata", using a decoction of sesame leaves and flowers instead of water, and using it as an aperitif and something purgative at the same time. It is also believed that the stinging hairs that grow on the pods are effective against intestinal worms since, after ingesting the "drink", they are expelled alive. But be careful, since these hairs are irritating to the skin and cause intense itching, as well as redness and the formation of small

pustules shortly after contact, since they contain an active chemical known as mucuna, a proteolytic enzyme.

What is surprising is that in recent years, scientific studies have found that an extract of the seeds given to male Guinea pigs in low doses causes sperm degeneration, raising the possibility that the plant could be used as a male antifertility agent.

Intrigued by Aruba's origins and its cultural heritage? Then we encourage you to do something outside of the tourist grid. Become one of the exclusive visitors of Etnia Nativa, a private residential encounter set up, where you will be able to touch and be touched by authentic Aruba heritage, a spectacle of native art, archaic as well as archaeological artifacts, lithic tools, colonial furniture, and other items of island's bygone era. Get inside a recycled environment full of peace, relaxation knowledge, and information.

Etnia Nativa is, since 1994, the home of Anthony, our acclaimed columnist, artist craftsman and island Piache who guides and lectures you through his resplendent collection. Etnia Nativa is the only place that recreates and introduces you to an authentic glimpse into Aruba's native cultural heritage and its colonial footprint. Something completely different for a change—a contemporary Native Aruba experience!

Appointment is required + 297 592 2702 or etnianativa03@gmail.com.



Aymar Torres, a happy musician “because I do what I love”



ORANJESTAD – He is an Aruban musician living in the Netherlands, and when he gets on stage, he shows the Latin blood inside him, delighting the audience with catchy songs from different countries like Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela and the Caribbean.

In an interview with our reporter, Aymar says that he chose Latin rhythms because in the Netherlands there are not many artists performing the music from the old days, like Bolero or Trio Los Panchos. For this reason he decided to do this, since he sings in different languages like Spanish, Portuguese, French and Italian. “This way people get more of the feeling that they are in the past and in their country as well,” he says.

In one word, he describes himself as “happy, because I do what I love. I let people live their lives and I don’t live with envy.”

He has been living in the Netherlands for 16 years already, and he dedicates his time to his six-month old baby, his partner who will soon become his wife, his music lessons three times a week, and his shows. Manuel is their first child. He says that together with his partner they are learning a lot from him. Torres himself is “attending father school”,

and every day he makes sure to dedicate a lot of time to his child and playing music for him, since the first years are very important for a child’s development.

Torres mentions that since he was very young he decided to sing. He was a fan of Shakira and liked watching television, there was a show on a Venezuelan TV channel called “Club de los Tigrillos”, which was very famous among children and teenagers in the 90s for the series of Salserin. “I grew up with all those artists and I wanted to become a singer like them. Then I learned singing when I was 16, and took it more seriously and continued improving myself.”

Regarding the difference between performing in the Netherlands or Aruba, Torres explains that there is no difference, since “I am always myself as an artist. It doesn’t matter what country you go, you stay yourself and with the show you created, if you change something it’s going to feel weird. What I do change is my repertoire [when I’m in Aruba], because I know that many in Aruba do know the songs. Like when I play Juan Luis Guerra, there are other artists who also play Juan Luis Guerra, so I try playing a different song than what you al-

ready hear in Aruba.”

But the audience in Aruba is different, more difficult compared to the Dutch, because they know the music already. “If I play songs other than what they are used to, they enjoy, but in the Netherlands I can play more music that is played here,” he says.

Aruba has a lot of talent in the cultural, creative and artistic industry, but sometimes do not receive enough support from our own community. Aymar commented: “People need to take musicians and artists in general seriously. Some of them are not doing this job as a hobby but they live from it. Also the government can help see the musicians and artists more like a real worker, a public servant, because



they are also important for our tourism. It would be good if we mix the artists with tourism so that the tourists have more to enjoy.”

Aymar also points out that some people question the work of a musician. “There are still people with the belief that music is a hobby, but if you give people a chance to see it more like a job, more people in Aruba will improve in music, there will be better musicians that can perform abroad and living in Aruba. This is true for all artists, like painters, artisans, fashion designers, among others.”

Aymar also says that he is a fan of many artists, local and international, and

here he announced that he wants to collaborate with beloved Aruban singer, Edjean Semeleer. He is planning and is busy with something to sing with him. “But since I had my son, I took a pause from writing and composing songs. This year I will start again with my own songs.”

Finalizing, he leaves as a message for people to support the youth in music and art of any category. “Push those who do want to go into music, help them and stop seeing music as just a hobby,” he says.

For more information, you can find Aymar on social media as “Aymar Music.” □

Images are courtesy of Aymar himself.



CROSSWORD

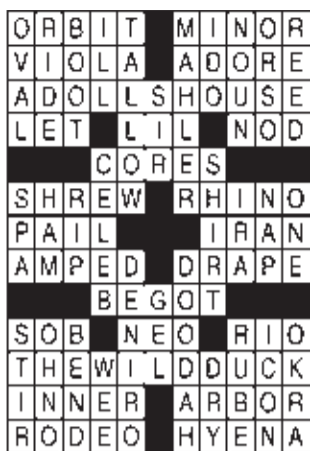
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Wage conflict, maybe
- 7 Basics
- 11 Relaxed
- 12 Detective's find
- 13 Nasty fellow
- 14 Gift-wrapping need
- 15 Pesto ingredient
- 17 Luggage
- 20 Egyptian crosses
- 23 Mess up
- 24 Typographical symbol
- 26 Sheltered side
- 27 Hole in one
- 28 Compass dir.
- 29 Infant outfits
- 31 Cut off
- 32 Declines
- 33 Singer Redding
- 34 Texas university
- 37 Smooth
- 39 Soft wool
- 43 Powder base
- 44 Egyptian beetle
- 45 Poker payment
- 46 Principles

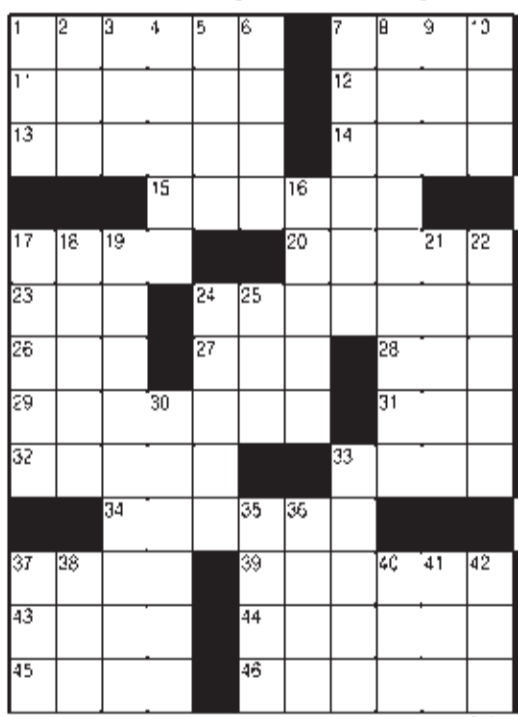
DOWN

- 1 Grier of "Jackie Brown"
- 2 Had a nosh
- 3 Supporter's vote
- 4 Sides in turf wars
- 5 China setting
- 6 Jury member
- 7 Stage work
- 8 Karate award
- 9 Recipe unit
- 10 Notice
- 16 Bowling spots
- 17 Submerged
- 18 Concert site
- 19 Parks around a city
- 21 Asian capital
- 22 Dance units
- 24 Dagwood's dog
- 25 Sculpting medium
- 30 Spooky gathering
- 33 Heart, for one
- 35 Ultimate
- 36 In the past
- 37 Greek vowel
- 38 Moving truck
- 40 Iron source
- 41 Mob pariah
- 42 Crunch targets



Yesterday's answer

- 19 Parks around a city
- 21 Asian capital
- 22 Dance units
- 24 Dagwood's dog
- 25 Sculpting medium
- 30 Spooky gathering
- 33 Heart, for one
- 35 Ultimate
- 36 In the past
- 37 Greek vowel
- 38 Moving truck
- 40 Iron source
- 41 Mob pariah
- 42 Crunch targets



A XYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-15

CRYPTOQUOTE

UJG FTX K CKOO NKJF VPG

EKBPV CUEFD, TJF VPGX

CKOO RG DKSAOG. — ITHW

WGEUZH

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WE LOVE BECAUSE IT'S THE ONLY TRUE ADVENTURE. — NIKKI GIOVANNI

Millennial Money: Job plus a side gig? Avoid these mistakes

By ELIZABETH AYOOLA of NerdWallet

At the beginning of the year, many people have their eyes set on goals. Some of these goals may include increasing your income, starting a dream business, or both if you're reaching for the stars. Before you get your hands dirty in the sometimes chaotic combination of formal employment and entrepreneurship, here are a few pitfalls to avoid.

NOT HAVING A PLAN FOR YOUR SIDE HUSTLE INCOME

People get side hustles for different reasons. It could be to help make ends meet, save toward a dream vacation or grow your business to a point where you can quit your job. □

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In unusual step, U2 reinterprets 40 of its best-known songs

By **DAVID BAUDER**

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In reimagining 40 of their best-known songs, U2 recognized that many fans would experience them through earphones connected to a device in their pockets rather than being belted out onstage.

That was one thought behind “Songs of Surrender,” coming out this week. The four men of U2, now either 61 or 62 years old, revisit material written in some cases when they were little more than kids out of Dublin.

Particularly in those days, U2 songs were written primarily with concerts in mind. The Edge told The Associated Press in an interview that U2 wanted to catch the attention of people seeing the band for the first time, perhaps in a festival or as an opening act.

“There’s a sort of gladiatorial aspect to live performances when you’re in that situation,” he said. “The material has got to be pretty bold and even strident at times. With this reimagining, we thought it would be fun to see intimacy as a new approach, that intimacy would be the new punk rock, as it were.” The Edge was the driving force behind “Songs of Surrender,” using pandemic down time to record much of the music at home.

Given that his electric guitar and Bono’s voice are the musical signature of U2, there’s a certain irony in the absence of that guitar being the most immediately noticeable feature of the new versions. He sticks pri-



This combination of four separate photos shows members of the Irish rock band U2, from left, lead singer Bono performing in Washington on June 17, 2018, The Edge performing in Chicago on May 22, 2018, Larry Mullen Jr. and Adam Clayton, both performing at the Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival in Manchester, Tenn., on June 9, 2017.

marily to keyboards, acoustic guitar and dulcimer.

The process began without a roadmap or commitment to see it through if it wasn’t working.

“As we got into it and got into a groove, we really started to enjoy what was happening,” he said. “There was a lot of freedom in the process, it was joyful and fun to take these songs and sort of reimagine them and I think that comes across.

It doesn’t sound like there was a lot of hard work involved because it wasn’t.” Much of the intimacy comes through Bono’s voice. There’s no need to shout, so he sometimes uses lower registers or slips into falsetto.

Lyrics are often rewritten, sometimes extensively in even a recent song like “The Miracle of Joey Ramone.” Some changes are more subtle but still noticeable: replacing the line “one man betrayed with a kiss” with “one boy never will be kissed” takes Jesus

out of “Pride (In the Name of Love).”

At the same time, “Sunday Bloody Sunday” is rearranged to end with a question: “where is the victory Jesus won?”

Cellos replace the driving guitar of “Vertigo.” Keyboards give “Where the Streets Have No Name” an ambient sound. “Two Hearts Beat as One,” the original a high-octane rock dance song, now has a slinkier, sexy vibe and is one of four songs where The Edge takes lead vocal.

The band is fairly democratic in taking songs from throughout its catalog, although 1981’s “October” album and 2009’s “No Line on the Horizon” are not represented. “New Year’s Day,” “Angel of Harlem” and “Even Better Than the Real Thing” are among the songs left alone.

“We’re one of the only acts that has this body of work where a project like this would be possible, with the distance of time and experience where it would be

interesting to revisit early songs,” The Edge said.

Throughout music history, bands have occasionally re-recorded material for contractual reasons. Taylor Swift is the most famous example, putting out new versions of her older songs in order to control their use. Squeeze’s “Spot the Difference” makes sport of how they tried to make new recordings indistinguishable from the originals.

Live recordings and archive-cleaning projects like Bob Dylan’s “bootleg” series gives fans the chance to hear familiar songs differently.

Many older artists don’t see the point of making new music, since there’s little opportunity to be heard and fans are partial to the familiar stuff, anyway, said Anthony DeCurtis, Rolling Stone contributing editor.

“Revisiting your body of work in a creative way is a means of sustaining interest in your career,” DeCurtis said. “Older fans might not be interested in another

collection of your hits, but reworking them in a meaningful way could prove enticing. Younger fans don’t have the same investment in your classics, so these new versions offer a route into your catalog.”

The Edge encourages fans to give the new versions a try, suggesting they may even grow to prefer some of them.

“I don’t think there’s a competition between these and the original versions,” he said. “It’s more of an additive thing than a substitution. If you like the new arrangements, great. If you prefer the originals, keep listening.

“It’s no problem either way,” he said. “They’re both valid.”

The Edge said he’s working on new music for U2, “and we’ve got some great stuff in the pipeline.”

The quartet that met in drummer Larry Mullen Jr.’s kitchen when they answered an ad placed on a high school bulletin board is a remarkable story in longevity. □

A passage toward the end of Bono’s book “Surrender,” where he talked about looking around onstage at the end of their most recent tour in 2019 and wondering if it was the end, raised natural questions about how long U2 would continue.

“There are many reasons why U2 has stayed together for so long, but one of the main reasons is that it works so well for us as individuals,” The Edge said. “I think we all shine the brightest as part of this collective. I certainly would not like to hang up the guitar.” □

Lindsay Lohan announces pregnancy in Instagram post

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lindsay Lohan is expecting her first child.

The “Mean Girls” star announced her pregnancy in an Instagram post on Tuesday, sharing an image of a baby onesie with “Coming soon...” written on it. The post was captioned “We

are blessed and excited!” Lohan married financier Bader Shammass in 2022, People magazine reported.

A message sent to Lohan’s representative was not immediately returned.

The 36-year-old actor, who was once a tabloid main-

stay, has lived overseas for several years and kept a lower public profile.

She recently returned to acting, starring in Netflix’s “Falling for Christmas” last year, and stars in the streaming service’s upcoming romantic comedy “Irish Wish.” □



Lindsay Lohan appears the Christian Siriano Fall/Winter 2023 fashion show in New York on Feb. 9, 2023.

Associated Press

FIFA expands 2026 World Cup again to create 104-game program

By **GRAHAM DUNBAR**
AP Sports Writer

The expanded World Cup in North America got even more supersized on Tuesday.

The governing body of soccer increased the size of the 2026 tournament for the second time six years after the first by approving a bigger group stage for the inaugural 48-team event. By retaining groups of four teams instead of moving to three, FIFA has created a 104-game schedule that will last nearly six weeks in the United States, Canada and Mexico. The final is scheduled for July 19.

The 16 host cities 11 in the United States, three in Mexico and two in Canada now have 24 extra games to stage on top of the 80 they already had for the inaugural 48-team tournament. Adding about 1.5 million more tickets will also further fuel FIFA's expected record revenue of at least \$11 billion through 2026 from a tournament that will rely on using high-revenue NFL stadiums.

FIFA said the decision followed a "thorough review that considered sporting integrity, player welfare, team travel, commercial and sporting attractive-



Argentina's Lionel Messi kisses the trophy presented by FIFA President Gianni Infantino, left, as The Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani looks on, after the World Cup final soccer match between Argentina and France at the Lusail Stadium in Lusail, Qatar, Sunday, Dec. 18, 2022.

Associated Press

ness, as well as team and fan experience."

The latest push by FIFA president Gianni Infantino for more games and bigger events in a congested calendar will likely provoke more concern among stakeholders such as domestic leagues and players' union FIFPRO. They have long felt isolated from talks on soccer's future.

The six-week World Cup will

start one year after FIFA launches a 32-team Club World Cup, which could also be staged in North America to test tournament logistics. The Champions League in Europe also has a new format with more teams and games in the 2024-25 season.

The new World Cup format will have 12 groups of four teams instead of 16 groups of three, the plan chosen in

2017. Both options were to go to a 32-team knockout round. The format guarantees every World Cup team will play a minimum of three times instead of two, adding up to a stacked group stage totaling 72 games before arriving at the knockout rounds. The four semifinalists will play eight matches, one more than last year in Qatar. The entire 2022 World Cup

in Qatar amounted to 64 games in the seventh and last edition of the 32-team format. The 1998 World Cup in France was the first with 32 teams.

Increasing the World Cup's lineup was first floated in 2015. It was proposed then as a way to sweeten FIFA's 200-plus member federations into accepting much-needed governance reforms in the wake of American and Swiss investigations of corruption.

After Infantino was elected FIFA president to succeed Sepp Blatter, one of his first big strategic wins was adding 16 teams to the World Cup. Infantino persuaded FIFA colleagues that a 48-team tournament with Africa and Asia getting more of the extra places than Europe would fuel interest and drive development in countries that rarely or never qualified to play on the biggest stage. That was despite FIFA's own research in 2016 suggesting that the highest quality soccer was achieved by the 32-team format. In Qatar, the split-screen drama created by decisive group games played simultaneously helped convince FIFA that four-team groups are better. □

Canelo Álvarez sets ring return to face John Ryder in Mexico

By **GREG BEACHAM**
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Canelo Álvarez will return to the ring May 6 in his native Guadalajara, Mexico, to defend his four super middleweight title belts against Britain's John Ryder.

Promoter Matchroom Boxing announced Álvarez's next fight Tuesday. The bout will be at Akron Stadium, the home of Mexican soccer club Chivas.

Álvarez (58-2-2, 39 KOs) is fighting for the first time since he won the final bout in his famed trilogy with Gennady Golovkin by unanimous decision last September.

Álvarez also will be fighting one year after his one-

sided upset loss to Dmitry Bivol in a light heavyweight bout.

The 32-year-old Álvarez is returning on Cinco de Mayo weekend to fight in Mexico for the first time in 11 1/2 years.

Álvarez, who lives in San Diego for most of the year, has staged his last 22 bouts in the U.S. He hasn't fought in Mexico since beating Kermit Cintron in Mexico City in November 2011, and he hasn't fought in his hometown since June 2011.

Álvarez had surgery on his left hand late last year, but he has recovered quickly enough to take on his next challenge.

He collected all four

168-pound world title belts during an impressive four-fight run through the division starting in late 2020 and ending with a stoppage of Caleb Plant in November 2021.

"I feel really happy to be coming back in May, because following my surgery, I was unsure of when I'd be coming back," Álvarez said in a statement. "Returning to the ring and coming back to fight in Jalisco, where I'm from, makes me especially happy."

The 34-year-old Ryder (32-5-0, 18 KOs) will be a significant underdog, but he has earned interim versions of two super middleweight world title belts during his current four-fight unbeaten

run.

Ryder fought twice in 2022 and earned arguably the two biggest victories of his career, winning a split de-

cision over former middleweight champion Danny Jacobs before stopping previously unbeaten Zach Parker last November. □



Canelo Alvarez celebrates after defeating Gennady Golovkin in their super middleweight title boxing match, Saturday, Sept. 17, 2022, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

Garoppolo heads long list of QBs on move in free agency

By **STEVE REED**
AP Sports Writer

Jimmy Garoppolo is finally out of San Francisco, ready to start the next phase of his career wearing the Raiders' silver and black. Sam Darnold is heading out West, where he'll replace Garoppolo and join Trey Lance and Brock Purdy with the 49ers. Mike White, Case Keenum and Jarrett Stidham have new teams, too.

Deshaun Watson is staying in Cleveland, but with a restructured deal with the Browns.

As for Aaron Rodgers, who is not a free agent but whose name has widely been circulated in trade rumors, his future remains unclear because, well, he's Aaron Rodgers.

Quarterbacks took center stage on Monday as NFL free agency began with teams allowed to negotiate and agree to deals with unrestricted free agents. The deals can't be announced until Wednesday and therefore were confirmed to The Associated Press by people speaking on condition of anonymity. Garoppolo was the highest-profile QB to change teams.



San Francisco 49ers quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo (10) passes against the New Orleans Saints during the second half of an NFL football game on Nov. 27, 2022, in Santa Clara, Calif.

Associated Press

He agreed to a three-year, \$67.5 million contract with Las Vegas, where he'll replace Derek Carr, who signed with the New Orleans Saints earlier this offseason after being cut by the Raiders. Garoppolo's contract includes \$34 million in guaranteed money. White is staying within the AFC East, leaving the New York Jets for the Miami Dolphins to back up Tua Tagovailoa. Keenum is rejoining the Houston Texans, where

he went 0-8 as a starter back in 2013. Stidham is going to Denver to back up Russell Wilson.

The Browns restructured Watson's record-setting guaranteed \$230 million contract to create salary cap space.

The Broncos were among the big spenders on Monday, addressing their offensive line by agreeing on a five-year, \$87.5 million control with tackle Mike McGlinchey from the 49ers

and a four-year, \$52 million deal with guard Ben Powers from the Baltimore Ravens. Denver later agreed with former Arizona Cardinals defensive end Zach Allen on a \$45.75 million, three-year deal.

But the Broncos couldn't keep everyone.

The Seattle Seahawks agreed to terms with former Broncos defensive lineman Dre'Mont Jones, a deal reported to be worth \$51 million over three years.

As usual, the first day of free agency negotiations meant some players cashed in.

Defensive tackle Javon Hargrave got a four-year, \$84 million contract from the 49ers, adding more talent to what was already considered one of the best defenses in the league, and Jawaan Taylor will become Patrick Mahomes' new blindside protector after agreeing to an \$80 million, four-year contract with the Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs.

Former Cincinnati Bengals safety Jessie Bates got a four-year, \$64 million deal from the Atlanta Falcons. Bates, an All-Pro in 2020, started 79 games in five seasons with the Bengals and had 14 interceptions, forced three fumbles and recovered two.

The Bengals' other free agent safety, Vonn Bell, signed with the Panthers.

The Chicago Bears made two big additions at linebacker, agreeing to contracts with two-time Buffalo Bills Pro Bowler Tremaine Edmunds and former Philadelphia Eagle T.J. Edwards. Edmunds' deal is worth \$72 million over four years with \$50 million guaranteed. □

Iditarod co-founder's grandson Ryan Redington wins dog race

By **MARK THIESSEN**
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Ryan Redington on Tuesday won the Iditarod Trail

Sled Dog Race, bringing his six dogs off the Bering Sea ice to the finish line on Nome's main street.

Redington, 40, is the grand-

son of Joe Redington Sr., known as the "Father of the Iditarod." He helped co-found the arduous race across Alaska that was first held in 1973.

"My grandpa, dad and Uncle Joee are all in the Mushing Hall of Fame. I got big footsteps to follow," Ryan Redington wrote in his race biography. He previously won the Junior Iditarod in 1999 and 2000. His father, Raymie, is a 10-time Iditarod finisher.

Redington, who is Inupiat, becomes the sixth Alaska Native musher to win the world's most famous sled dog race.

The nearly 1,000-mile (1,609-kilometer) race started March 5 in Willow for 33 mushers, who traveled over

two mountain ranges, the frozen Yukon River and on the Bering Sea ice. Since then, three mushers have scratched. A fan-friendly ceremonial start was held in Anchorage the day before. It was the smallest field ever to start a race, one short of the first race run.

Among those who scratched was defending champion Brent Sass, who was leading when he withdrew Saturday over concerns for his health, because of periodontal issues. He was doing OK and resting in the community of Unalakleet, he posted on Instagram Sunday. The Iditarod was caring for his dogs, he said.

Sass said he had been sick the entire race with a bad

cold. Then on Friday "some cracked teeth started giving me issues and over a 12-hour period turned into nearly unbearable pain," he said. "My body basically shutdown and for two runs I just hung on. Ultimately I couldn't care for the dogs." He said the colder temperatures, dipping to minus 30 F (minus 34 C), were making his dog team stronger, but it made him weaker.

For the first part of the race, mushers dealt with high temperatures, causing some to alter their strategies. Redington will earn about \$50,000 for winning. The exact amount won't be calculated until the total number of finishers are known to split the prize purse. □



Ryan Redington, a musher from Wasilla, Alaska, and grandson of one of the race founders, Joe Redington Sr., greets fans while taking his sled dogs through a snowstorm in downtown Anchorage, Alaska, on March 5, 2022, during the ceremonial start of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

Associated Press